regulatory institutions such as SEBI, RBI etc. have been established pursuant to statutes that also prescribe the legal framework for regulation of the capital market in the interest of all stakeholders.

Grants-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi

2271. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought sanction of maximum grant-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded city; and

(b) if so, Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State Government has sought financial assistance of Rs. 425 crore for tricentenary anniversary of 'Gur-Ta-Gaddi' at Nanded city to be held in 2008.

(b) At the discussion held on 8.2.2006 between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Maharashtra to finalize the Annual Plan 2006-07 of Maharashtra, it was agreed to provide Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 125 crore for Nanded city.

Smuggling of currency to Hong Kong

2272. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian currency is being freely traded in Hong Kong these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indians are not allowed to take with them Indian currency abroad; and

(c) whether Government ha/e the circumstances in which the Indian currency was smuggled abroad and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM}: (a) and (b) Local newspapers in Hong Kong are quoting rates of exchange for Indian currency vis-a-vis HK$. However these rates are not indicated by Hong Kong Banks Association or the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). It may be mentioned that HKMA has not authorized Banks for purchasing Indian Rupees and even Indian Banksin Hong Kong are not to entertain deposits in Indian Rupees.

(c) The details of seizures wherein Indian Cunency was being smuggled out of India during the last three years are as under:—

Period	Details of seizure	Value of seizure (Rs. In lakhs)
2003-04	Indian currency seized alongwith Foreign currency at Dabolim Airport, Goa from passenger who was destined for Sharjah	0.40
2004-05	*Nil*	Nil
2005-06 (till date)	1. Indian currency seized from a baggage at CSI Airport, Sahar on 18-11-05 from a flight destined for Dubai. No passenger was apprehended but a Gulf Airlines employee was arrested for her complicity in dispatching the baggage.	69.95
	2. Indian currency seized from a baggage at CSI Airport, Sahar on 6-12-05 destined for Muscat. The Passenger did not board the flight and could not be apprehended.	106.00

Banking operations by foreign companies

2273. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether overseas financial companies are evincing interest in setting up banking operations in the country,

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received and approved so far;

(c) the details of FDI limit and other terms and conditions, including priority lending norms, that the promoters are required to adhere to before and after being permitted to establish banking operations in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that sector specific priority lending norm and double taxation are some of the issues inhibiting banking operation by foreign entities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has given approval to Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Monte Dei Paschi Di